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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 695

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Steve Cates on his selection as 2001-02 Tennessee High School Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cates is one such estimable educator who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates has recently been selected 2001-02 Tennessee High School Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cates received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and a Master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University; knowing the immense value of education, he also studied at the prestigious University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates has served with acumen and alacrity as an educator in Rutherford County for forty exemplary years; he has taught at Riverdale High School since it was first opened thirty years ago, and he previously worked at Bradley Middle School and Kittrell School; and

WHEREAS, this Tennessean currently teaches government and economics as well as folklore and heritage; over the years, he has shared his vast knowledge of many subjects with students from several grades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to his school extend far beyond the classroom; he has directed drama programs, coached debate and forensics teams, worked with the DAR Junior American Citizenship Clubs, and coached basketball and baseball; and

WHEREAS, he has helped train the next generation of educators by supervising teachers and interns from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, known for his vast wisdom, Steve Cates has served on the Teacher Advisory Committee at the MTSU Center for Economic Education in connection with the International Economic Summit, on the Teacher Advisory Committee for the Tennessee State Museum, and on committees with *The Daily News Journal* and *The Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates' excellence as an educator is known throughout his community, this state, and our nation; he was selected in 1970 to direct the Citizenship Short Course at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. and, in 1989, as one of thirty teachers to participate in the Monticello-Stratford Hall Workshop for Teachers in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, he has received numerous awards and honors including the 1969 Valley Forge Teachers' Medal, 1964-65 and 1968-69 Rutherford County Teacher of the Year, a special award from the Arts and Humanities Council of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, an Honorary Membership in the Tennessee Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation,

and Dance, the 1980 Rutherford County Education Association Human Relations Award, the 1970 Tennessee 4-H Alumni Award, and the 1987 Tennessee Council for the Social Studies Outstanding High School Teacher Award, and he was twice chosen to serve as a presenter for the National Council for the Social Studies in meetings at Los Angeles and Wake Forest, N.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates is an invaluable contributor to numerous civic organizations and activities, and he is particularly active in preserving Tennessee's cultural heritage; he has organized and instructed the Rutherford County Square Dancers and Cripple Creek Cloggers for thirty-two years, performed throughout the United States and abroad, organized the International Folkfest for eighteen years, and served as a U.S. Representative to the Council for International Organization of Folkloric Festivals for eight years and as a Board Member for four; and

WHEREAS, he possesses unsurpassed leadership ability and has served as President of the Rutherford Education Association, Rutherford County Volunteer 4-H Leaders, Stones River Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Rutherford County Historical Society, Cannon County Historical Society, North American Sector of the Council for the International Organization of Folkloric Festivals, and Kittrell High School Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cates truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cates truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Steve Cates on being chosen as 2001-02 Tennessee High School Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Council for the Social

Studies, commend his exceptional service to the youth of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.